

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBQESY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 0417

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, MU, YS, SA
SUBJECT: OMAN - SOUTH YEMEN RELATIONS

REF A(A) MOSCOW 05446, (B) TEHRAN 02657 (NOTAL) (C) MUSCAT 0357
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SUMMAR. JUDGING BY REMARKS MADE BY FOREIGN MINISTER ZAWAWI
DURING AMBASSADOR'S RECENT CALL ON HIM, OMAN IS NOT AT PRESENT
VERY MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT NEW PRESSURES FROM PDRY IN NEAR
FUTURE. NOR HAVE THERE BEEN ANY FURTHER SAUDI GOVERNMENT
EFFORTS IN PAST FEW MONTHS TO MEDIATE BETWEEN OMAN AND PDRY.
END SUMMARY.

1. IN MARCH 21 MEETING WITH QAIS ZAWAWI, AMBASSADOR FOL-
LOWED UP DISCUSSION OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT QUESTIONS BY ASKING
HOW OMANGOV VIEWS PERESENT SITUATIONF ADEN NOW THAT
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ETHIOPIANS WITH THEIR SOVIET AND CUBAN ALLIES HAVE PUSHED
SOMALI FORCES BACK OUT OF THE OGADEN. ZAWAWI SAID SITUATION
IS PRETTY MUCH UNCHANGED FROM LAST FALL AND WINTER. PDRY IS
KEEPING UP ITS HARD LINE ON JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING, AS WELL AS
ITS PRO-PFLO PROPAGANDA AGAINST THE SULTANATE.
THOSE WHO THOUGHT SOME TIME AGO THAT PDRY PRESIDENT SALIM
RUBAI ALI WOULD HAVE AN EFFECTIVE MODERATING INFLUENCE OVER

PDRY FOREIGN POLICY SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN PROVEN WRONG.
OMAN IS KEEPING UP ITS GUARD IN THE SOUTH BUT THERE HAVE BEEN
NO SERIOUS INCIDENTS ALONG THE BORDER NOR ANY SIGNIFICANT
INDICATIONS THAT PDRY WILL BE MAKING FRESH TROUBLE SOON.

2. AS TO THE SAUDIS, ZAWAWI WAS UNABLE TO SHED ANY LIGHT
ON PRESEVT RIYADH VIEWSSOF SOUTH YEMENI SCENE. ASKED IF
SAG HAS RENEWED ITS EFFORTS TO GET OMAN AND PDRY TOGETHER,
ZAWAWI SHOOK HIS HEAD AND REFERRED BACK TO LAST OCTOBER
WHEN THE OVERLY AGGRESSIVE PZRRY SPEECH AT THE UNGA HAD
TAKEN THE SAUDIS (AND PRINCA SAUD PARTICULARLY) ABACK.
SINCE THEN, SAID ZAWAWI, THE SAUDIS HAVE MADE NO FRESH
EFFORT TO GET OMANI AND PDRY REPS TOGETHER, APPARENTLY HAVING
JUST ABOUT GIVEN UP ON THEIR HOPE OF AMELIORATING PDRY'S POLICY.

3. COMMENT. WHILE OMANI-SAUDI CONTACTS AT LEVEL OF INTEL-
LIGENCE SERVICES DOUBTLESS CONTINUE ON A FAIRLY REGULAR BASIS
(REF D PRESENTED A VERY USEFUL DESCRIPTION OF THAT ASPECT OF
THEIR RELATIONS) WE HAVE THE FEELING THAT CONTACTS AT POLICY-
MAKING LEVEL HAVE BEEN RATHER SPORADIC IN PAST FEW MONTHS.
ZAWAWI'S LACK OF ANXIETY ABOUT NEARWATERM PDRY INTENTIONS
VIS-A-VIS OMAN IS CONSISTENT WITH TENOR OF OMANI
MILITARY BRIEFING EMBASSY RECEIVED ON MARCH 8 (REF C).
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